AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharing data over a network~~,~~ having a plurality of network-connected terminals, each <u>terminal</u> comprising~~,~~:

a̲ visual display ~~means~~;

~~processing means~~a̲ ̲p̲r̲o̲c̲e̲s̲s̲o̲r̲;

storage ~~means~~; and

memory ~~means~~; wherein

said memory ~~means~~i̲n̲c̲l̲u̲d̲e̲s̲

instructions to duplicate an object from a second of said network-connected terminals at a first of said network-connected terminals in response to a data requirement of said first terminal;

instructions to access data in said object using locally executed object instructions at said first terminal; and

instructions to maintain data consistency between duplicated objects <u>by establishing a duplicate master, wherein the role of said duplicate master is switchable between said duplicated objects</u>.

2.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said instructions are either stored in said storage ~~means~~ or are loaded from an external medium and retrieved into said memory ~~means~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said instructions to maintain data consistency between duplicated objects monitor Central Processing Unit usage and network bandwidth ~~utilisation~~utilization.

4.   (Currently amended) A method of sharing data over a network, having a plurality of network-connected terminals, each terminal comprising memory ~~means~~and ~~processing means~~a processor, said memory ~~means~~ including instructions for managing object duplication, including ~~steps of~~:

(a)   in response to a data requirement of a first of said network terminals, duplicating an object from a second of said network terminals at said first terminal;

(b)   at said first terminal, accessing data in said object using locally executed object instructions; and

(c)   maintaining data consistency between duplicated objects by establishing a duplicate master, wherein the role of said duplicate master is switchable between said duplicated objects.

5.   (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said object duplication instructions for managing object duplication constitutes a duplication manager.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein said object from a second of said network terminals is ~~a~~said duplicate master.

Claim 7 – cancelled.

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8. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said duplicate master updates said duplicate.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein only one duplicate master exists for a group of duplicates.

Claim 10 – cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~10~~4, wherein said switching is the result of a command, called load-balancing, or the result of an automatic fault-recovery process performed by the duplication manager.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing data over a network~~,~~ having a plurality of network-connected terminals, each <u>terminal</u> comprising memory ~~means~~ and ~~processing means~~<u>a processor</u>, said memory ~~means~~ including instructions for managing object duplication, including ~~steps of~~:

(a) in response to an availability of a list of said network terminals, duplicating an object from a second of said network terminals at said first terminal;

(b at said first terminal, accessing data using locally executable object instructions; and

(c) maintaining data consistency between duplicated objects <u>by establishing a duplicate master, wherein the role of said duplicate master is switchable between said duplicated objects.</u>

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13.   (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein said object duplication

instructions for managing object duplication constitute a duplication manager.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein said object from

a second of said network terminals is ~~as~~said duplicate master~~;~~.

Claim 15 – cancelled.

16.   (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein said duplicate master

updates said duplicate.

17.   (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein only one duplicate master

exists for a group of duplicates.

Claim 18 – cancelled.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~18~~12, wherein said switching

is the result of a command~~,~~called load-balancing, or the result of an automatic fault-recovery

process performed by the duplication manager.

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable

instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions, a computer

will ~~perform the steps of~~:

(a)   in response to a data requirement of a first network terminal of a plurality of

network terminals, ~~duplicating~~duplicate an object from a second of said plurality of network

terminals at said first terminal;

(b)   at said first terminal, ~~accessing~~access data in said object using locally executed object instructions; and

(c)   ~~maintaining~~maintain data consistency between duplicated objects <u>by establishing a duplicate master, wherein the role of said duplicate master is switchable between said duplicated objects</u>.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions a computer will ~~perform the steps of~~:

(a)   in response to an availability of a list of network terminals, ~~duplicating~~duplicate an object from a second of said network terminals at a first of said terminals;

(b)   at said first terminal, ~~facilitating~~facilitate data access using locally executable object instructions; and

(c)   ~~maintaining~~maintain data consistency between duplicated objects <u>by establishing a duplicate master, wherein the role of said duplicate master is switchable between said duplicated objects</u>.